

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, last week we learned that the IRS paid out more than \$1 million of taxpayer-funded bonuses and other awards to more than 1,100 employees who owe back taxes. That is outrageous.

This bonus scandal comes at a time when the IRS is under fire for targeting Americans based on their beliefs and amid reports that reveal IRS workers broke the law by engaging in political activity on the job. Simply put, the IRS is out of control. IRS employees are failing to comply with the very laws they were hired to enforce. Worse, it further proves that Washington doesn't respect nor care how Americans' hard-earned tax dollars are spent.

It is time for the IRS to respect hard-working American taxpayers, and that is why I am introducing a common-sense bill to prohibit the IRS from providing bonuses to tax delinquent IRS workers.

I urge my colleagues to join in this effort. It is the right thing to do.

HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the United States Department of Transportation released a proposal to spend \$302 billion over the next 4 years on highway and transportation projects in our Nation. Though this is an improvement on the current pathetically weak investment in roads and bridges, this is not nearly enough to adequately address America's broken infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, the American Society of Civil Engineers gives the United States infrastructure a D grade and predicts that an additional \$3.6 trillion investment will be needed by 2020 just to bring America's infrastructure to a state of good repair.

Making a real investment, going beyond the President's proposal, is not only an investment in our Nation, it is also an important investment in our Nation's people. Nation-building right here at home can't be outsourced and could create millions of jobs and dramatically lower the unemployment rate.

I urge my colleagues to support large-scale investment in America, supporting American people and American businesses.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the 63rd annual National Day of Prayer. Tomorrow morning, I will join a bipartisan group of

Members to gather together and pray for our country.

As we continue to face obstacles each day, both as a country and as an individual, I urge Americans to join us in praying for wisdom and guidance, thanking God for the many blessings we have been given in this Nation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our brave servicemen and service-women and their families who are serving our country overseas and here, protecting our freedom and putting their lives on the line for our security. We pray they return home to our grateful Nation swiftly and safely.

Let us also continue to pray for peace in our own communities. Psalm 145 promises that the Lord is near to all who call upon Him, and I urge you to join me tomorrow in observing the National Day of Prayer.

ANIMAL EMERGENCY PLANNING ACT OF 2014

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise on National Animal Advocacy Day to announce the introduction of the Animal Emergency Planning Act of 2014. This bill would require entities regulated under the Animal Welfare Act to develop a plan for how they will respond to and recover from emergencies, both natural and manmade, that would most likely occur in their facilities.

Regulated animal breeding facilities, commercial animal dealers, transporters, exhibitors, and research facilities would be required to submit plans to the USDA annually and to train their employees on the contingency plans and procedures.

Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, as well as other recent disasters, have highlighted the need for planning to minimize the impact of these disasters on animals, which can have devastating effects.

Local first responders, nongovernmental agencies, and private individuals in the past have often ended up shouldering the cost and taking on the responsibility of protecting and caring for these animals. It is only fair and reasonable to require emergency readiness plans from those in these businesses. So please join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT

(Mr. MARCHANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of making the research and development tax credit permanent. America has a long tradition of supporting research and development.

The R&D tax, which was first enacted in 1981 under President Ronald Reagan, stimulates investment, creates high-value jobs, and drives economic

growth. But the R&D credit has never been made permanent. In fact, the credit expired at the end of last year, which has caused significant uncertainty and hurts long-term investment for businesses of all sizes.

The roller coaster of tax extensions, expirations, and renewals should stop. Businesses need to make decisions on what is best for their workers and companies, not the stop-and-go policies of an uncompetitive Tax Code.

Permanency of the R&D tax credit will propel U.S. competitiveness, and it will also help promote future investment, innovation, and job growth right here at home.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today there are 2 million Americans that stand to lose everything they have worked for, through no fault of their own—2 million Americans that are working Americans that get up every day and work hard to find their next job. They are America's unemployed who have lost their extended unemployment benefits. They stand to lose everything.

Rather than taking up H.R. 4415, which I introduced right after the Senate acted on a bipartisan basis to deal with this problem of the unemployed in our country, to make sure that that unemployment compensation is there for them when they need it, rather than take that up, the House Budget Committee has sent to this floor for its consideration a budget that would slash essential programs to provide a safety net for those hardworking Americans who stand to lose everything in order to fund tax cuts—big tax cuts—for America's wealthiest people. That is policy that we just can't tolerate. Rather than taking up the needs of those 2 million, we have taken on the challenge of trying to provide more tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

If this had happened because of a storm, we would act overnight. We need to take up H.R. 4415 right away.

BIPARTISAN TRADE PRIORITIES ACT

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, given the fact that 95 percent of consumers live outside our borders, the U.S. must continue to pursue trade opportunities. The U.S. actually had a trade surplus with our 20 trade agreement partners in 2012.

Trade agreements expand opportunities and fuel competition, which benefits consumers and can strengthen and protect American interests around the world. Though trade agreements make sense strategically and economically,